

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ABSTRACT

T.S. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of forest land to an extent of **1.3237 ha** in WLM Kinnersani forest division under Bhadravati-Kothagudem District for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within the existing Right of Way in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd (earlier M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited) - **In-principle (Stage.I) approval** accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 64

Dated: 17-05-2022
Read the following:-

1. Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, Lr.F.No.5-2/2017-FC, Dt.28.03.2019 and amendments issued therein
2. From the PCCF(HoFF), T.S, Hyd, Ref.No.21059/2018/FCA-1, Dt.28.01.2020.
3. Govt Memo.No.1023/For.I(1)/2020, Dt.15.07.2020.
4. Minutes of meeting of 4thSBWL held on 24.02.2022.
5. From the PCCF(HoFF), TS, Hyderabad, Ref.No.21059/2018/FCA-1, Dt.19.04.2022.

ORDER:

In the letter 2nd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana State, Hyderabad has submitted a proposal under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of forest land to an extent of **1.3237 ha** in WLM Kinnersani forest division under Bhadravati-Kothagudem District for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within the existing Right of Way in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd (earlier M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited), which has been returned in ref 3rd cited intimating that the same may be resubmitted after approval by the State Board Wildlife for further consideration. In the reference 4th cited, the State Board for Wildlife has cleared the proposals under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the subject project is mentioned at No.31 of Agenda 2(b). Accordingly, the proposals are resubmitted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana State, Hyderabad in reference 5th cited for according the necessary approval.

2. The proposal has been examined with reference to the guidelines issued by the Government of India in the letter 1st read above.

3. Government after careful examination of the proposal and in exercise of the powers delegated to State Government in the guidelines issued by Government of India in the letter 1st read above, hereby accord **in-principle (Stage.I) approval** Proposal for diversion of forest land to an extent of **1.3237 ha** in WLM Kinnersani forest division under Bhadravati-Kothagudem District for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within the existing Right of Way in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd (earlier M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited) subject to compliance of the following conditions:

- i. The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Demarcation of the forest land diverted:** The State Forest Department shall carry out demarcation of the proposed forest area by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency and cost for which shall be deposited by the User Agency with the forest department as assessed by the concerned District Forest Officer/ Forest Divisional Officer;

- iii. **Net Present Value:** The NPV shall be realized from the User Agency as per Chapter 3 of the F.No.5-2/2017-FC, Dt.28.03.2019 and amendments issued therein vide F.No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I), Dt.06.01.2022, Dt.19.01.2022 and Dt.22.03.2022, as the area proposed for diversion is falling within the Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary;
- iv. **Compensatory afforestation:** No compensatory afforestation stipulated as the project doesn't involve tree felling, as per the guidelines issued in F.No.FC-11/165/2019-FC, Dt.27.07.2020 issued by the Ministry;
- v. **Wildlife Mitigation Measures:** An amount of Rs.25.00 Lakhs to be deposited by the User Agency as stipulated in Wildlife clearance by State Board for Wildlife in ref 4th cited and other conditions stipulated therein.
- vi. No tree felling and branch cutting shall be carried out by the User agency;
- vii. User Agency shall fulfill the conditions stipulated in Part II, Part III and Part IV and also covering letters, inspections notes of the proposals;
- viii. The depth of the trench shall not be more than 2 m and width shall not be more than 0.4 m and after laying down of optical fiber cable the ground shall be leveled. The cable line should be laid atleast 1.5 meter below the ground;
- ix. Disturbance should be kept minimum by creating labor camps outside the forest areas and it will be responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers and staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora and fauna. No labour camp shall be established on the forestland;
- x. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labour after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xii. The muck generated in the earth cutting if any, will be disposed off at the designated sites and in no case the muck/ debris will be disposed off in the forest area by the User Agency'
- xiii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xiv. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of competent authority;
- xv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India as well as State Forest Department/ PCCF(HoFF) may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- xvi. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **1.3237 ha** and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- xvii. The User Agency to make good the land after use/maintenance;
- xviii. The User Agency to make good any loss to forests /environment;

- xix. The User Agency should take permission for carrying out any maintenance;
- xx. Work should be carried out during day time only;
- xi. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project;
- xxii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- xxiii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC, Guidelines in F.No.11-42/2017-FC, Dt.29.01.2018 and F.No.5-2/2017-FC, Dt.28.03.2019.

4. After receipt of the compliance on the above-mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final (stage-II) approval. This in-principle (stage-I) approval shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue of this G.O. in the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, the in-principle (stage-I) approval shall automatically stand revoked after five years.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana State, Hyderabad, is therefore, directed to take further necessary action accordingly in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

A.SANTHI KUMARI,
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(HoFF), Telangana State, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Director General, Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110003.

The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office (Hyderabad), Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, #3rdfloor, Aranya Bhawan, Saifabad, Hyderabad 500004.

The M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd (earlier M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd SC.

//FORWARDED:::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER